

# Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



**February 16, 2022**

## **Police Recruiting Begins Young**

Seven members of Tiger Cub Scout Den 2 of University Place Pack 148 and their parents visited the U.P. Police Department on Feb. 7. The intrepid scouts came prepared with lots of questions about everything from search and rescue operations to training in different environments like snow, mountains and rivers.



They were able to tour the station's training room and see lots of different public safety tools and equipment such as handcuffs, stun guns, riot gear (shields) and police radios. But as might be expected, the highlight of the tour was the opportunity to see and sit inside an actual police patrol car (and the goodie bags they went home with).

Deputy J Sousley conducted the tour and fielded all the questions. "It is so much fun to do this kind of public outreach," he said. "It's an opportunity for us to share more about what we do with the public, including a lot of the non-criminal public safety work we do, while also hopefully planting a seed in the next generation of potential law enforcement officers."

*Photo provided by Jennifer Li Dotson.*

## **What's UP with Biz: When One Door Closes, Others Open**

On Sunday, Feb. 20, Narrows Plaza Bowl will close its doors for good at 10 p.m. The property, as well as the adjoining Galaxy

Theaters property, is under contract and will be redeveloped into new market rate apartment homes called the Narrows Urban Village.



Plans call for 274 units to be built on the two parcels, spread among two four-story buildings and seven three-story buildings.

The development will include a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom units, a pool and plaza, as well as a community gathering space.

Per City of U.P. requirements, the developer will improve access from 22nd Street W. and 23rd Street W.

Construction is expected to begin sometime next month.

In another bit of news, TRA Medical Imaging will be relocating its offices at 2212 Mildred St. W. in an effort to consolidate its real estate holdings. Chris Coates, the company's CEO, said the decision was a tough one, but necessitated by market forces. "We have a lot of excess space in downtown Tacoma," he said, so the company has decided to utilize that square footage.

Although the building on Mildred will go on the market in the near future, Coates said the company is grateful for all the support shown to them by City staff. "U.P. was and is the best municipality we've ever worked with. We appreciate everything the City has done for us."

## Be in the Know: Check Out the City's Agenda Center

[Home](#) > [Agenda Center](#)



### Agenda Center

View current agendas and minutes for all boards and commissions. [Adobe Reader](#) may be required to view some documents.

#### Tools

 [RSS](#)  
 [Notify Me](#)

#### Search Agendas by:

Time Period ▼

Start Date

End Date

Word or Phrase

Select a Category ▼



#### ▼ City Council

[2022](#) [2021](#) [2020](#) [View More](#)

Agenda	Minutes	Media	Download
 <b>Feb 7, 2022</b> City Council Regular Meeting Materials			<a href="#">Download ▼</a>
 <b>Jan 22, 2022</b> City Council Special Meeting Materials			<a href="#">Download ▼</a>
 <b>Jan 18, 2022</b> City Council Regular Meeting Materials			<a href="#">Download ▼</a>
 <b>Jan 3, 2022</b> City Council Regular Meeting Materials			<a href="#">Download ▼</a>

Do you want to know what the City Council will be discussing at their next meeting? Or get a report on what was covered at a previous meeting, including final readings of new ordinances and how the Council Members voted?

The Agenda Center on the City's website offers Council meeting agendas, minutes and many supporting documents. It also offers a link to watch a video of the proceedings.

Advanced filters enable you to search by date, with a specific word or topic, or by a particular group, such as City Council or one of the City's five advisory commissions (Economic Development, Finance, Parks, Planning and Public Safety).

The Agenda Center holds archived documents for five years, so it is possible to search for topics going back to 2017.

Simply click on the Agenda and Minutes icon from the **home page** and you will be directed to the Agenda Center.

UNIVERSITY PLACE

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 22, 2022  
AT 6:30 P.M.

VIRTUAL: WATCH ON COMCAST  
CHANNEL 21, RAINIER CONNECT  
CHANNEL 12 OR LIVE ON  
YOUTUBE.COM/UNIVERSITYPLACETV

AGENDA ITEMS:

- ARPA Expenditures Resolution
- ARPA Sewer Consultant Contract
- Stormwater Management Program Update

Agenda items are subject to change, please visit the City website for more information.

## Tacoma to Maintain Moratorium on Utility Disconnection until March 31

***Advanced notice on disconnection provides customers time to pay down \$30 million in past due balances***



On Feb. 8 Mayor Victoria Woodards announced that the City of Tacoma will maintain the moratorium on utility disconnections until March 31, 2022. The March 31 date provides Tacoma Public Utilities' customers with advance notice so that TPU can provide assistance and access to resources that may help them make a plan for how to pay down past due balances and apply for available payment assistance before disconnections for nonpayment resume. At that time, Tacoma Public Utilities will begin the process for disconnecting service, ending the moratorium that was put in place at the start of the State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A similar moratorium set by the State of Washington ended in September 2021.

"This additional time is intended to give residents enough notice to make a plan to take care of outstanding balances, including access to programs and resources that may help," said Woodards. "We want to get these customers onto a payment plan right away and connect them with resources to catch them up on their payments so that no one loses service, especially the more financially vulnerable in our community."

When the moratorium ends on March 31, TPU will place all past due balances on an automatic, interest- free, 24-month installment plan. Making payments on past due balances now ahead of the March 31 date will lower the monthly amount customers will owe on their installment plans.

Since the start of the pandemic, while customers have not been disconnected, nearly \$30 million in unpaid utility bills have accumulated, with more than 27,000 TPU customers owing past due balances, many of whom were income constrained prior to the financial impacts of the pandemic. Customers on the installment plans must stay current on new usage charges while paying off past due balances to prevent disconnection. If customers do not stay current on new and past payments, their utility service will be subject to shut off, as TPU is required to collect on these balances.

"We need TPU customers to take action now," said Steve Hatcher, manager of Customer Services. "Our team is here to help with a flexible, hands-on approach, and our goal is for all TPU customers to keep their services."

To help customers with past due balances, utility staff will work with them to identify available assistance programs and provide payment plan options. After the disconnection process resumes, TPU customers with past due balances will receive a series of notifications from the utility, and the earliest a customer could be without service is May 2022.

Tens of millions of dollars are still available through several relief funds and utility assistance programs, but customers must apply for them while they last. Customers can submit an assessment form to TPU to see if they are eligible for payment assistance. Customers needing help with the assessment form can contact TPU's Customer Services team. Once the assessment is complete, a Customer Services care specialist will reach out to applicants to discuss available resources.

More information about payment plans and how to apply for relief and assistance programs is available at **[MyTPU.org/COVID19](https://www.mypu.org/COVID19)**.

# Spring Pruning Parties

at the Curran Apple Orchard

Saturdays: Feb. 26, March 5 & 19  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

More info: [www.CurranAppleOrchard.com](http://www.CurranAppleOrchard.com)

Curran Apple Orchard, 3920 Grandview Drive West, University Place

## Register in a Flash for FlashVote

Be sure to register for FlashVote so you can participate in a current survey that closes tomorrow regarding the use of a small park next to U.P. Primary School. The brief four-question survey is a way for you to share your thoughts on how to best utilize this small parcel.



*The best way to survey and engage citizens*

In the past, FlashVote has been used to gauge public interest and opinions on topics such as the mix of businesses in the Village at Chambers Bay, the Housing Action Toolkit and the vision for the City over the next 25 years.

Take a minute right now to **sign up and participate**. You are not obligated to participate in every survey, but being registered means it will take even less time to weigh in on issues that matter to you—and University Place.

FlashVote is one more way—in addition to emails, calls or attendance at public meetings or events—that you can share your opinions and thoughts on issues impacting University Place.



You may be the person we are looking for!

View current job opportunities at [www.CityofUP.com](http://www.CityofUP.com)

**WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!**



## **Draft 2022 Stormwater Management Program Review & Comment Period is Now Open**

As a requirement of the National Pollution Discharge & Elimination System (NPDES), the City of University Place is required to provide a local municipal program that addresses the requirements of our NPDES Permit. Every year we provide opportunity for the public in our community to review the program and make comments, pose questions, or provide recommendations.



Starting today, Wednesday, Feb. 16, continuing through March 7, the DRAFT 2022 Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan is available for review. The SWMP Plan is located on the **City website**.

If you have questions or comments you'd like to share, email them to **Todd Smith**, NPDES Coordinator, or call him at 253.460.5432. There will be an additional opportunity to make public comment at the Public Hearing portion of the City Council Meeting of March 7. Details for that meeting, including how to watch and/or provide public comment, will be available on the City website the Friday before the meeting at **City Calendar**.

# Adopt an Apple Tree

**Pruning Adoptions**  
(\$45 available through March 31)

Prune your own tree!

**Orchard Supporter Adoptions**  
(\$70 available through July 31)

Have volunteers prune your tree!



## **Curran Orchard Resource Enthusiasts (CORE) Tree Adoption Program**

Adoptions valid for one season.

Receive a beautiful wooden sign  
embellished with the adopter's name.

For adoption forms, visit

[www.curranappleorchard.com](http://www.curranappleorchard.com).

## COVID-19 Resources

Looking for specific information  
related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Here's a list of official sources of  
information on which you can rely:

**U.S. Centers for Disease Control** –  
Pandemic facts and information

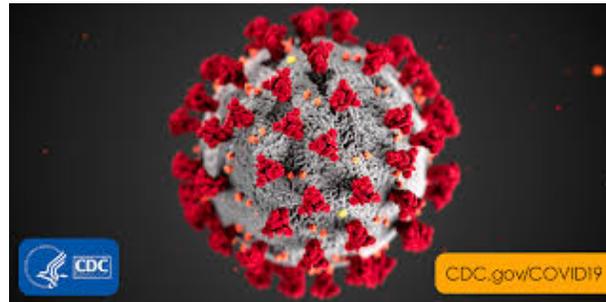
**Governor's Office** – Details about  
efforts and legislation specific to Washington

**Washington State Department of Health** – Updated statistics and testing data

**Tacoma-Pierce County Department of Health** – Testing sites, vaccine info

**Pierce County** – Resources for rent, utilities, mortgages, and much more

**City of University Place** – Pandemic resource updates specific to U.P.



# CITY HALL CLOSURE

---

CITY HALL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21 IN RECOGNITION OF THE PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY.

CITY HALL WILL REOPEN VIRTUALLY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 9 A.M.

**Follow us on your favorite social media sites!**



@CityofUPWA



UniversityPlaceTV



@CityofUP\_WA



@CityofUPWA

**University Place City Council**



**Mayor  
Steve Worthington**



**Mayor Pro Tem  
Javier Figueroa**



**Council Member  
Kent Keel**



**Council Member  
Edward Wood**



**Council Member  
Denise McCluskey**



**Council Member  
Stan Flemming**



**Council Member  
Caroline Belleci**

